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F. A. PRATT....WM. MESSEY.

# Newport Mercury.

ESTABLISHED, JUNE 12, 1758.

NEWPORT, R. I., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1859.

Volume 102.

## Children's Corner.

For the Child's Corner.  
REMINISCENCES OF NEW YORK AND  
BROOKLYN.

(Continued.)

"What do you think of this description of the Dutch colonists?" I enquire of my aged friend. "Well, I am inclined to believe that Washington might have exaggerated a little in order to make an amusing picture. It was written after my visit in '99; but I was then struck with the irregularity of the streets, and should not have found it difficult to believe that they had been originally laid out by the cows returning from pasture."

"I have a pamphlet entitled 'View of the City of Orange,' (now New York) as it was in 1763, by J. W. Montauk. I will give you some extracts next week, but I think the children would now be amused to read a description of a Dutch May Day, as it was in New York two hundred years ago. You may tell them, says my friend, that this is not an exaggerated picture."

"At the head of the city militia the Mayor held his daily parades before the City Hall, (then called the *Stadt Huys*). And every evening at sunset he received from the principal guard of the fort the keys of the fort. Thereupon he proceeded with a guard of six to lock the city gates, then place a citizen guard as night watches at different points."

"At sunrise the Mayor again went the rounds between the gates and to restore the keys to the officers of the fort. All this was a very toilsome service, and we should think, at this day, that my Dutchman two hundred years ago, who loved his comfort and repose, would have been unwilling to receive an appointment as Mayor of New York, or as it was then called *Nieuw Amsterdam*.

AN OLD CITIZEN OF NEWPORT.

Tell Me.

"Tell me of Jesus," asked a simple child, "To a man that was hardened in sin." "Tell me of Christ, that suffered for men, For I want to know of him."

"Tell of Heaven, that blest abode, Where saints and angels dwell. Tell me of prayer, for I want to pray. Dear papa can you tell?"

That father's heart was broken down, Tears gushed forth from his eyes. These things he never had thought upon; So there he sat and wept.

But as the tears rolled gently down From off that father's cheek, The child looked up, and calmly said, "Dear father, do not weep!"

That sinful man fell on his knees, And sought his father's face. He poured his soul to God in prayer, And sought forgiving grace.

And God did hear that sinner's prayer, He did his sins forgive, And taught him how to pray aright, And bid his spirit live.

With joy the father took his child, And pressed her to his breast; He taught her of a Saviour's love, And of that Heavenly rest.

For the Child's Corner. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth. Ps. xxv. 10. The paths of the Lord! dear Father, I long to tread them in childhood and youth, yet would fain be born in death. For thine are all mercy and truth.

"Show me thy ways" and teach me to walk With Thee in my pilgrimage here— As Caleb, I wholly would follow the Lord, And walk in His ways without fear.

Dearest Savior, the guide of my youth, And help me all my days, then— The paths of the Lord are all mercy and truth—in these blessed paths I would run.

"Come to Jesus I'll press on my way, And strive to be faithful now, For He is the way, the truth and the life, And where He hath gone I shall go.

L. L.

## Poetry.

### THE OLD CANOE.

SIMPLE CURE FOR GROUT.—We find in the *Journal of Health*, the following simple remedy for this dangerous disease. Those who have passed nights of agony at the bedside of loved children, will treasure it up as a valuable piece of information:

If a child is taken with croup, apply cold water—ice water if possible—suddenly and freshly to the neck and chest with a sponge.—The breathing will instantly be relieved. Soon as possible let the sufferer drink as much as can, then wipe it dry, cover it up warm, and soon a quiet slumber will relieve the parent's anxiety, and lead the heart in thankfulness to the Power which has given to the pure gushing fountain such medical qualities.

TO FASTEN KNIFE HANDLES.—In well made table cutlery the handles are riveted to the shank or the blade, and will remain fixed with ordinary care. These, though costing more at first, will prove cheapest, and we would purchase no other. When knives or forks have come off the handle from being carelessly put in hot water or otherwise, a cement made as follows will be useful to refasten them: Take of Gum Shellac two parts, and prepared chalk one part: reduce them to powder and mix thoroughly.—Fill the opening in the handle with the mixture, heat the shank of the knife and press it in. So says the *Chemical Gazette*.

It is generally acknowledged that pure sperm oil is the best oil for lubricating machinery. Although higher in price than other oils, it is not considered more expensive, because it affords such good results, and is the most durable.—This opinion we have derived from several machinists, who have tried various kinds of oils. A cheaper oil, equally as good, is desirable, because a vast annual expenditure on rail roads and in factories is incurred for this lubricator. Common whale oil can be much improved for lubricating purposes by boiling it with sal soda for half an hour. About one ounce of soda only is used to the gallon; and when boiled, it is allowed to settle until a sediment falls to the bottom. The clear is then run off, and used for the machinery.

THERE'S A HOME BEYOND THE RIVER.—There's a home beyond the river,— River rolling dark and deep; Sin and sorrow enter never,— Never there shall mortals weep. Death stands sentinel so grim,— Grimly by that awful shore; Light beyond is seen but dimly,— Dimly as we're ferried o'er. Visions of the future brightness,— Brightness gleam upon our view, As in death we see the likeness,— Likeness of the Christ break through. Fear not then! though dark and dreary,— Dreary is the passage o'er, Landad side in heaven, the weary,— Weary rest forevermore.

## Selected Tale.

### THE CONVENT BRIDE.

BY E. ALMY.

LITTLE RED-RIDINGHOOD.

BY MRS. FRANCES A. OSGOOD.

Dear little wanderer!

Dancing along;

Now with a song:

Little that loving heart,

Guileless and gay,

Dreamed of the evil

That darkened thy way.

Soft from thy crimson hood

Floated her hair,

Changing to gold

In the sunlighted air;

Blue as the hair-bell

That, as she tripped by,

Kissed those light feet in love

Shone her young eye.

Bright as you rivelot,

Glanced to the day,

Displed her cheek,

In her smile's sunny play.

Oh! 'tis a fable!

'T were sin to tell!

How could the wolf

Such a darling deceive?

Say that she met him there!

That may be so;

Innocence walks not

Unperiled below;

But on the faith

Of a poet, the rest

Is but a libel,

And should be repressed.

Say that she met him there,

Face unto face!

Soft o'er the savage

The magic of grace.

Sweetness and purity,

Beauty and love,

Stole to his heart

Like the coo of a dove.

One earnest look

Of those eloquent eyes,

One caress-tone,

Of her childish surprise,

Melted the iron

Of evil design

Into soft homeage;

For grace so divine;

And if he spoke to her,

(So goes the tale)

These must have been the words

Growned on the gale—

"Joyous and innocent,

Bright as the day,

Little Red Ridinghood,

Go on thy way!

Flowers of the spring-tide,

Graceful and wild,

Never come harm to thee,

Beautiful child!"

"Speed on thine errand

Unconscious of art,

Bloom on thy young cheek

And love in thy heart,

"Bare to the sunset

Those bright wavycurls,

Fearless and frolicsome,

Fairest of girls."

"Fades with the day!

Little Red-Ridinghood

Haste on thy way!"

DO NOT PITY YOURSELF.

niece of my friend and the consequent heritage. Without considering the binding qualities of my new relationship, I gave promise to join you in the eastern tour.—But you will find, my dear Pierre, if you are ever fortunate enough to get a wife, that Benedict is not a bachelor. I say fortunate, because at this moment I am the happiest of men—aside from my great sorrow—and would willingly renounce any project, however brilliant in anticipation, if the fair hand of my darling Ida was raised against it.

I know you will be delighted with the romance of my courtship aside from the veil that surrounds it. Of course I stand deeply disgraced in not paying timely devotions to my charming bride; but I did not feel at liberty to claim her as part of the heritage without her special commission. I considered myself as her protector, nothing more; it was sufficient if my body was bountifully provided for with no restraint upon her time or wishes. All this I left with the secretary, believing he understood such matters better than myself.

My wife was the last person that occupied my thoughts; indeed I was not even then sure that she was the niece of my friend, except that she was the niece of my friend; and strange to say I did not care to know, so blinded was I with sorrow; even if Mrs. Mortimer had bestowed her most fascinating smiles upon me, I feel as if I should have repelled her advances; fortunately for my repose she was young, modest and belonged to the convent, and therefore liked seclusion.

Ida was closely veiled during the marriage ceremony, and I do not remember to have had a desire to see her face, so overwhelmed was I with grief. Madame Tell led her from the room and I saw no more of my wife, and forgot almost the existence of Mrs. Mortimer, who occupied the suit of rooms formerly her mother's, in the north wing above; my rooms being below on the first floor north, we never came in contact. The house is after Clide's own heart, large and elegant, with nearly fifty spacious rooms, besides the culinary department, all furnished as magnificently as his own refined taste ever suggested.

Clide Hurst was strong even in death; his emotion had passed, he unclosed his eyes, and gave orders in a clear, distinct, voice about three months after the death of Clide. It was a balsom to his friends, till they quite helpe themselves to be masters, hating only the stake and the fire. If you want others to pity you, don't pity yourself. Don't teach your children to pity themselves. It is unwomanly: it is poor and pitiful.

Clide Hurst had one male friend, and one only relative, a female. Lloyd Mortimer had been the friend of his bosom from youth to manhood, partner of his joys and sorrows, of his troubles abroad and solitary hours at home, yet never had Clide spoken of this relative, Ida Hurst, his niece, daughter of a beloved sister, ruined and dead, her child reared in a convent.

To these two individuals Clide Hurst left his heritage, if they were united in matrimony before his death. Messengers were dispatched through storm and darkness to summon these persons to his deathbed. I made immediate preparation, and after arranging my own affairs, I summoned my Secretary and was about giving orders during my absence, after stating that I was about to leave for two or three years, when I was arrested by the rather peculiar and scornful look of said Secretary. He is a man of fifty, has been in the service of Clide many years, he has an eye for a bargain and a hand for business, and is honorable withal, in the strictest sense of honor. I returned his look with a "Well, sir." "I beg your pardon," he said in a sharp, sarcastic tone, "would it not be well for you to inform Mrs. Mortimer of your intentions?" She is of age and might be interested in the disposal.

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I think my heart palpitated audibly as I was bowed into my lady's room, and left alone with the rather loud introduction of Mr. Mortimer, Mrs. Mortimer, your husband, madam, your wife, sir. What a farce! Good heavens! Could Mrs. Mortimer be lame or foolish? she did not rise to meet me, but sat motionless behind the window curtain, with only her skirts and feet visible. I thought her feet delicate, and should have liked a peep at her face, but that she was careful to conceal, and I was too haughty to ask a woman the privilege of gazing at her, though she were my wife. It is only in her that you can behold seraphic beauty. I sink in the window seat weaker than a child, weeping over the very loveliness I gazed upon so tenderly.

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This then was the angel I had scorned, Never had I seen features so perfect, Luxurious dark curlis on her powdered brow and neck below her waist, long lashes fringed her lids, and every feature was perfect as a star, and they were Clide's—the same classic mould, softened and refined to the most delicate formation.

Her parted lips revealed the most perfect gems. The cool evening air brought her to life again. She opened her eyes with a start; I kissed her again and again, calling her the spirit of Clide; her

# The Newport Mercury.

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 17, 1859.

**ALARM**, on account of the continued tumult in the affairs of the nation, begins to attract more attention than common from the great body of the people. Naturally, if not willingly, many, who in ordinary cases pay little attention to the public interests of the American Union, are now inclined to turn aside from the pressure of private pursuits, and allow themselves sufficient leisure to read and consider the strange matter in the current history of the times.—Some, however, may think it too much of a task, such is the abundance of such material; and it is undoubtedly to be much regretted, that it requires so much reading "to keep posted up," as all should be, in matters of such general interest.

Perhaps few have considered to what extremities the American confederate republic may be suddenly reduced, by the too hasty and unpatriotic action of leading men in different sections of our common country. The States, without the national control of the general government, would be, at least for a longer or shorter time, in that condition most of all to be deprecated, the condition of *anarchy*. They would be left, as the citizens of a single State would be, if the state government should be suddenly abolished. True, political associations might again be formed for the security of life and property; but there would not be the same ability and patriotism to institute new governments, that there was at the period when a WASHINGTON presided over the destinies of liberty and order.

And of the present inhabitants of this country in general, whatever superior advantages they may have had in some respects, it is no disparagement to say, that they are by no means to be compared with the patriotic men, who bequeathed to the present age better institutions than the present age would otherwise have enjoyed. They had more of virtue and intelligence combined, and were less affected by the corruption of wealth and power. The degeneracy of older countries, is evidently beginning already to sap the foundation of peace and prosperity in this quarter of the world. Irreverence is taking the place of devotion to the public good. Personal freedom is made of more account than personal duty. Moral improvement is attempted by force, and at the sacrifice of existing obligations. And even those who choose their own masters, are not to be allowed the liberty of that choice, without the leave of a self-constituted dictator. This is a refinement in the doctrine of the times, not taught in Judea, when *Tribulus* was directed to be paid to TIBERIUS; or when obedience to NERO was apostolically enjoined upon the Romans.

The good citizens of whatever party in this country will not fail to look after their own interests of whatever sort at home, while they will not be indifferent to our national fame and our national influence abroad. The thunderer of the English press, and at the same the Jupiter Tonans of Europe, pleasantly and sarcastically remarks upon the late denouement at Harper's Ferry, that it was a sort of Guy Fawkes enterprise. And, it may be, there is too much resemblance between the two cases, in some startling respects; while, in other respects, we can discover an essential difference. But among the numerous plots in English history, both of whigs and tories, no other perhaps could be better selected for comparison than the gunpowder plot; unless we should take the government plot there, as an example of what the conspirators here, would be most ready to adopt.

1859.—*Isaac Bickerstaff* (one of his little troop could make it so, to the 18th of October, 1859). (Let Isaac BICKERSTAFF take notice.) The object of one was, to place Catholics and Protestants in equal rank as British subjects, the former at that time complaining of their degradation. The object of the other was, to give equality with American citizens to those who were not and could not by law be made American citizens, and to break the bonds which held a servile race under the control and guardianship of their lawless masters. And this was to be done, whether for better or worse to that race, (and whether they desired it or not to be done,) by whatever hazards, and at whatever cost of blood and treasure. Whereas CATESBY, the prime mover of the gunpowder plot, with GUY FAWKS and 36 casks of "villainous saltpetre" in the cellar, only contrived to blow up the Parliament House, with only the King, Lords and Commons, assembled therein; but the conspirators relented—and their unwillingness to do even all that, led to the detection of the plot, in their anxiety to save their friends.

A tall, dark, suspicious looking man, at 12 P. M. of the 4th was arrested as he came out of the cellar; it was GUY FAWKS, and he confessed and disclosed the intended mischief. In reply to the King, he said: "Desperate diseases require a desperate remedy." And the monarchy acted on that principle. Eight of the conspirators were tried by a special commission at Westminster, found guilty and executed.—Four or five including CATESBY were killed in a "rajd" at Holbeach, though some escaped. On the other hand, we cannot say that there is, or has been, any danger of the kind to our President and the two Houses of Congress; unless, indeed, they should blow themselves up sky high, by firing their own magazines. But if any bad luck should unfortunately happen, it will not be, we think, from any explosive matter in the cellar, but more likely from a toppling weakness in the garret. But, in both of the parallel cases we have been considering, there was the same disabolism, confounding right and wrong, if right was the ruling object—and involving the innocent with the guilty, if to take vengeance upon the guilty, could have justified the madness of the offenders. And therefore both cases are to be viewed with equal abhorrence, and with utter condemnation, as proceeding from the worst and most dangerous affections to which the mind of man is liable.

On Tuesday morning we were present at the examination of the pupils of the Berkeley Institute, and we hardly know how to express the pleasure we derived from the proficiency displayed by the boys under the direction of Rev. Mr. LEVERETT and his able corps of assistants. The readiness of the pupils when called upon, their accuracy in Spanish, French, Greek and Latin was most gratifying to all who witnessed their aptitude, as well as their proficiency in mathematics and other studies. A better school for boys, or one in which more attention is paid to their moral as well as intellectual culture, it would be difficult to find, if it exists at all.

The Virginians were at last accounts making great preparations for the execution of the remaining prisoners at Charlestown, which was to take place yesterday. GREENE and COPELAND were to be hung at 11 o'clock, and COPPLE at 3 o'clock. Nineteen companies were on guard. STEVENS and HAZLITT are still to be tried.

The inducements held out by the American Art Association, as set forth in their advertisements, should be sufficient to secure a large number of subscribers. For the amount of subscription the subscriber gets a beautiful engraving of SHAKESPEARE and his friends, and the *Art Journal*, a quarterly publication. He is also entitled to a ticket which may possibly cure a painting of great value.

We were disappointed, but not discouraged, by the result of the vote of our Portsmouth friends on the railroad question, and, doubtless, there was misapprehension somewhere, as we may find many would have voted "Yes," who were not at the polls till too late to deposit their votes. **Newport** and **Middletown**, however, have done nobly, and while other interested parties are conquering their prejudices, the friends of the measure will persevere, and its opponents gradually come into line, until finally all will put their shoulder to the wheel and the thing be accomplished. We cannot think the vote in Portsmouth on Friday of last week can be the voice of the farmers, as we know they raise large quantities of early produce for which they find a ready market at high prices, owing to the facilities afforded them by the regular and speedy communication by steamboats with Providence. This is a source of profit that was not available twenty years ago, and has not only been a present remunerative for their labor, but has very much increased the value of the lands in the vicinity of the **Ferry**. Then give them the further advantages of a railroad to Boston—running through their town—with the necessary stations, and it would open to them a market sufficient to consume all the early produce they could raise in their favored soil and situation, even if their farms should be converted into garden spots—thing which is impossible—as very remunerative prices are realized from this branch of husbandry. Nor is it likely the railroad to Boston would be the only improvement that would affect their interest.—Our advance brings others in its train. The road across the island would almost, as a matter of course, result in a branch to Bristol Ferry and steam between the **Ferry** and **Bristol** railroad. It is a visionary flight of the imagination to foresee results such as we have stated, and much greater than these from the establishment of railroad facilities to Boston, and the facts are so transparent that the people of Portsmouth only need to have the question put to them in a direct manner and they, too, will respond as favorably and as cheerfully as have the people of Newport and Middletown.

We learn from some of those in our city who voted "No," that they did not intend to express opposition to the railroad, and we trust they will eventually fall in with the majority in a measure that we confidently hope is to improve in a greater or less degree every inhabitant of the Island of Rhode Island as well as to add very materially to its population. At any rate let us make an effort to help ourselves, and even if we fail—or of which we have no fears—it will not bring ruin, and we shall know that we deserved success.

The following letter from a resident of this city to a merchant of Boston, points out some of the many advantages which may be derived from the connection of our island with Boston:

*My Dear Sir*—Permit me to submit to you in writing, briefly and without any preliminary trouble, the substance of what I stated in our conversation a few days since, in Boston, as to the commercial advantages to be derived by Boston from a contiguous Railroad from that city to New York.

Newport having the best harbor, all things considered, on our Atlantic coast, Boston could by means of a railroad (the distance being about 70 miles) draw to herself much of the fruit of that superiority.

In trade with the South the difference in favor of Newport against Boston in freight and insurance would fully pay the cost of transhipment and transportation by railroad of many kinds of cargoes, the saving in so bulky an article as raw cotton amounting to at least \$1 per bale; after which, there is left the great saving of time, which, in winter especially, would often be a gain of weeks, our harbor being never obstructed by ice, and admitting of easy entrance in a northwest gale, the only harbor on the coast that has the remarkable quality.

His resignation is dated Nov. 18. The patriot FANTI is to fill the vacancy, it is said, as commander-in-chief. And he may be equally brave, and a more scientific soldier, with the advantage of experience in the Crimean war.—But the friends of Italy will be sorry, if that country shall lose the *prestige* of GARIBALDI.—Art without nature, is not so likely to succeed as nature without art. There is much probability that the service of both these patriotic leaders will be needed to establish the nece-

ssary of avoiding, under certain contingencies. It was a pity that such a peace should have been made, as to almost necessarily lead to another war. Those who make war for an idea, should not make peace without an idea. The rights of the Italian princes were reserved to the two Emperors, in a treaty made by and between the two Emperors. This would not have happened to be a case reserved for future decision, if the fact had been so, that the two Emperors could agree between themselves.—They disagreed we infer; and now it is proposed to call a Congress of Europe, to act as umpire between them, and to relieve LOUIS NAPOLEON from the personal responsibility of giving freedom to Italy.

THURSDAY afternoon by the arrival of the **Perry**, Hercules Company No. 7, Capt. CRANSTON, received their new and beautiful engine from the manufacturer of Messrs. JEFFERS & Co., Pawtucket, R. I. The Company were at the landing in full force, and with GILMORE's Band made a short parade. The engine is what is termed the "piano style," having a highly polished rosewood frame. The wheels are of white oak, painted white, and are four feet high with silver bands of a new pattern. The levers, axles, springs and tongue are of polished steel. All the mountings are of finished brass and silver; the large air chamber is of burnished copper, and bears on each side the name of the Company—"Hercules." On the side of the box is the number "7," surrounded by a beautiful gilt scroll. The suction is kept attached to the engine, so that but little time is required to put the engine in complete operation at a fire. On the front of the engine is a handsome signal lamp of red cut glass. The cylinder is 10 inches in diameter, and the stroke changeable from 3 1/2 to 7 1/2 inches. The brakes are 23 ft. long, accommodating 45 men.

The cost of the engine with hose cart is \$1,575, of which sum the city pay \$1,000, and the Company \$575. The working parts of the machine are finished in the best possible manner, and the workmanship reflects great credit upon the builders. At the trial yesterday she threw an inch stream 200 feet horizontally and about 160 feet perpendicularly.

THE question is now often put, "can there be any such thing as a dissolution of the Union?"

The time was, when no such thought was ever indulged for a moment. It is now familiar, and more entertained, perhaps, than the special kindness of our destiny, in being allotted a land where peace is so easily preserved, and upon the very principles which we are ready enough to recommend to other nations. But to the question. We answer, that, if a certain number of States should unfortunately become, in popular sentiment, unanimously in favor of separation or secession, there might be no sufficient power in other States to prevent such a suicidal resolution from being carried into effect. The greatest and perhaps the only security for the Union should be, that we may be content that the Union should be dissolved. As long as that shall be the fact, it will be preserved.

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